

*Remarks for
MED Week Awards Luncheon
September 18, 2003*

■ Recognize

- Cedric Morgan- thank you for having me here and for the work you do

- Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jr.

- Carol Robinson- President of MED- Week Steering Committee

- Erin Pickens- Mistress of Ceremony (anchor WJTV)

- Geilia Henry-Manager Equal Business opportunity Division

- Janita Stewart-District Director U.S. Small Business Administration

- Douglass Anderson- President Hinds County Board of Supervisors

- Public-Private-Partnership
 - Entergy, Amsouth, Bancorp South, Trustmark, City of Jackson and JSU Small Business Development Center

- All MED committee members

- MDA Honorees
 - Rip Daniels – Minority Business Owner of the Year

 - Brenda Thornton – Women-owned Business of the Year

- Other honorees –
 - Margaret L. Farmer, Business of the year, Minority Capitol Fund
 - Foster G. Brown, II, City of Jackson Business Person of the Year
 - Fortson's Insurance Agency, City of Jackson, Minority Owned Business of the Year
 - Collins Funeral Home, 2003 MED Week Heritage Award

■ Excited to be here with you today for the culmination of this weeks events

■ This entire week has centered around celebrating the impact that minority and women-owned

businesses have on Mississippi's economy/
global economy

- We support minority and women owned businesses and acknowledge their contributions to Mississippi communities

- We are working as a unified team
 - to build opportunities
 - and develop innovative strategies
 - that will improve our business climate
 - and enhance the quality of life for every citizen.

- One of the ways we are providing support is through the Mississippi Development Authority

- Last year, MDA awarded over \$3.7 million to minority businesses through its Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program

- These loans created 492 jobs

- Minority contractors are playing an instrumental role with Nissan and as Nissan suppliers.

- Our guest speaker today – Dr. Bill Cooley of Systems Consultants Associates is a prime example of the opportunities open throughout the automotive industry.

- Through its Business and Community Training series, the Mississippi Development Authority is
 - Providing valuable tools to help all minority

- Business owners take advantage of contract
 - opportunities in the automotive industry and
 - beyond
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- H.W. Lewis said, “Those who are unwilling to invest in the future haven’t earned one.”
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- Numbers show our commitment to investing in all of our citizen’s futures today, for dividends tomorrow
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- Setting new standards for education and economic development
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- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented

- Computers in the Classroom
 - Accountability
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- Mississippi has experienced significant growth over the past three years

 - We are aggressive about creating good paying, quality jobs for all Mississippians
 - Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 56,000 new jobs
 - Total investment in Mississippi nearly \$15 billion

 - While we are actively recruiting new businesses, we will not forget to support our existing industries

- We will not forget the contributions of our minority businesses/ entrepreneurs

- Thank you again for your commitment to improving the quality of life for all of Mississippi's citizens